

Can he walk into your storm?

Objective: Every “storm” can be overcome by allowing the great I Am to walk through it.

Keyword: Storm

Spider Webbing text: Exodus 3

Vid: https://youtu.be/XYW-lmfbk2Y?si=uLUO0SGSNI_4901I&t=85 (1:25-2:25)

Greek: ἐγώ ειμι (I AM)

Illustrations: 1. Marcus' IT issue where the lady ignored him and kept clicking until it got to a point that he couldn't even fix it. Lady created her own storm.

2. Bus barn co-worker.

Closer: Can Jesus come into your storm and declare “I AM”?

Today I have a big surprise for you. We are talking about God...I know I know I am a professional at suspenseful cliffhangers. In all seriousness though that is what this series has been about. It has been about who God is and what he can do in our lives. I want you to think. Who is God? How is God described in the Bible? I think one of the best ways to answer this is to look in the book of Exodus better yet here is a clip.

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Exodus 3:13-15- ¹³Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

We see here that God calls himself "I AM". This might seem like a weird thing to say with our frame of reference but to the Hebrews this name conveyed his dominion over all things: he is the source of power, the source of knowledge, he has an eternal nature. He is a self-sufficient and self-sustaining God. The phrase "I AM" in Hebrew is a declaration. He declared that day who he was and as you know he gave Moses a promise, otherwise phrased as a covenant in the bible. His promise was to lead the Hebrew people out of the storm they found themselves in.

God delivered on his promise and continued to deliver on his promises throughout the Old Testament. The Hebrew people.....not so much.

Illustration-Years ago when I was in college, I had a *fantastic* roommate named Marcus and he became one of my best friends. I remember a story he shared with me about an old job he had. I want you to know Marcus is extremely knowledgeable in computer technology. He worked in IT for Team Health which required him to solve any computer issues for various doctors or other health care workers. His company also had a cool app that would allow him to temporarily take control of the computer so he can fix the issue instead of verbally guiding them to the solution. All the client had to do was give him permission to take control. Now he told me that out of the clientele, he had 2 extremes. One side, they were super chill and cool to talk to. They allowed him to do his job quickly and smoothly. They would give him control and allow him to fix the issue because of his knowledge and expertise, right? The other side, they refused to listen because they knew everything, they did everything right it couldn't possibly be user

error. "Why is this thing not working perfectly?" "This is dumb. This shouldn't be happening. I am too important for this." You get what I am saying. One group of calls would take less than 5-10 minutes while the other one could take hours. He told me about one specific client that was difficult. The issue they had was a pretty simple one for Marcus to solve so he was expecting a quick and easy call. Unfortunately, this client would not listen to Marcus' instructions and decided to just start clicking things. He was on the phone saying "stop clicking everything! I need you to get this app going so I can take over and fix the issue". "Let me help you". "No, don't click that!" "Definitely don't click that". The client on the other hand, "No, I know this will work" "I know what I am doing" "This looks like the right thing" "I don't need you to take over. I can fix it. Your job isn't that hard" (pause). I'll save you on all the details but this call lasted probably around 2-3 hours. The client kept clicking to the point where Marcus couldn't fix that computer and that's saying something. Somehow they locked themselves out of the whole system to the point that it needed an administrative key to fully reboot the whole system to the core. All the way to the factory settings. It would need to get reprogrammed essentially. They would need to download and restore all of the files and applications. Again this is a medical computer. There was a lot of important information on it. It was a mess. All of this because they wouldn't let Marcus, who had more knowledge and experience, walk in and fix the issue. Because of ego, pride, and maybe even a bit of fear this person turned a 5-10 min issue into one that would probably take multiple days to a week to fix that computer and get it back to working order.....

That person caused a storm in their life and in the lives of their co-workers. This encapsulates the people of Israel in the Old Testament. God would tell them how to live

their lives. What they needed to do. He is the author of life so I imagine that he has a higher level of expertise on that matter, but we read tragic story after tragic story of God telling Israel to let him take control but they keep clicking saying “I know better!” “why are we walking for so long” “I’m tired of eating mana” “who are you to walk into our lives” “I think slavery was better”. They do this all the way into the New Testament. Now in the book of Mark we reach a new scenario.

Mark 6:45-56- ⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch (about 3am) of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

I want you to remember that line. Back into the text.

⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Now let's look back at that phrase I wanted you to remember. It says “take heart; it is I” that second part is important because in the Greek it doesn't translate to “it is I” it more directly translates to “I AM”. A name that we should always remember as it says in Exodus. This isn't a casual “dont worry its just me” this is Jesus saying “Take heart; I

AM. Do not be afraid". What happens after that? I AM gets in the boat and then the wind/storm stops. This storm the disciples were struggling against and fighting through. The storm that caused them a good bit of distress was silenced by I AM. What is a storm to the expertise, power, and authority of I AM?

We see the disciples delivered from the storm by I AM. They knew, knew the meaning and power behind the name I AM. They knew this because it was passed down from their ancestors who were delivered from Egypt..... We know the name, I AM, because it was passed down through ancestors and was shared around the world. I have a question for you. Can Jesus walk into your storm? Whatever that might be. No matter how big or small. Can he walk into your broken relationships? Can he walk into your financial stress? Can he walk into health issues? Can he walk into your confusions? Your mental health. Your diet. Your decisions. What is that storm to you? Will you let Jesus be the Great I AM in your storms? Or will you continue to face these storms as you are. I'll be honest with you when I face storms as I am, I don't always do that great. I am not an expert on life but the Great I AM is the author of life. He knows how it works.

Let's continue with the last part of this passage.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵ and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

The land of Gennesaret had many people who were facing the storm of health issues. Do you see how they handled it? When Jesus walked in, they ran to him. They went directly to him to deal with their storm.

Again, can Jesus walk into your storm? I'm going to spoil it. Remember, I am a professional with cliffhangers. The answer is yes; but will you let him take control or will you keep clicking, trying to do it your way because you are the "great you are". Possibly causing yourself and others more grief. Why not give it to the Great I AM?

I worked with an older guy at the bus barn. I met him early on when I was driving school buses. One of my first days he greeted me and knew that I worked here with the youth. He came up to me and said "Good morning, I'm John! It is always a pleasure to meet a fellow brother in Christ." He greeted me most mornings. He was popular among all the drivers and office people. He is one of the nicest guys I have ever met. Every morning we have to do a radio check to make sure we have communication with the base. Most of the drivers, including me, would just say their bus number and ask for a radio check. It sounded like this: "Bus 96, Radio check." and the base would say "You're good". But John, who is probably in his 60's or 70's would say, "Bus 100 requesting lift off" and base would reply "skies are clear. Ready for take off". Everyone at the bus barn loved him and his students were crazy about him. He retired this year and I heard through the grapevine that throughout all the time that I knew him and that most of the people there knew him, he had so many family issues. Mainly he had multiple family members dealing with health issues. He was standing in the middle of his own storm but he was not alone. Because he had the wisdom to let Jesus take care of the storm, he

had the joy and patience to endure it. I knew without having to hear any words about it that he stopped clicking and let the Great I AM take control.

So now I have a challenge for everyone here. It is simple but I am not going to say it is easy. Everyday this week, say a prayer to God where you get specific about your storm. I want you to tell him everything about it and ask him to come into the storm and silence it or stand in it with you. Do what Marcus' client wouldn't do. Do what my old co-worker at the bus barn has done so many times. Give the author of life control and call him the Great I AM in your prayer. That is his name.